

**REPUBLIC BANK
SECONDARY SCHOOLS
WATER POLO LEAGUE 2024**

The Republic Bank National Secondary Schools Water Polo League 2024 will run during the months of January, February and March 2023, starting January 13.

Dates

- Preliminary entry deadline – January 3, 2024
- Technical meeting and final entry deadline – January 8, 2024
- Competition dates - January 13, 14, 21, 27; February 3, 4, 24, 25; March 2, 3, 10

Categories

- Category A – Senior Male. Students in this category may be of any age.
- Category B – Senior Female. Students in this category may be of any age.
- Category C – Junior Male. Students in this category must be born in 2008 or later.
- Category D – Infantile Male. Students in this category must be in Form 1 (Grade 7 for international schools)
- Category E – Infantile Female. Students in this category must in Form 1 (Grade 7 for international schools)
- Category F – Junior Female. Students in this category must be born in 2008 or later.
- Category G – Juvenile Male. Students in this category must be born in 2010 or later.
- Category H – Juvenile Female. Students in this category must be born in 2010 or later.

The league is open to all registered secondary schools in Trinidad and Tobago. For international schools, only students from grade 7 through 12 are permitted to participate.

For categories A, B, C, F, G and H, World Aquatics Rules shall apply in all regards, except that all games shall consist of quarters of 6 minutes of actual play, with 1 minute break period between periods and 2 minutes at half. Each team is allowed only one time out per game. In decisive games (semi-finals and finals), however, each team is allowed one time in each half of the game. A competition delegate may call a technical time out at any time during any part of a game to deal with a contentious situation.

For categories D and E (mini polo), competition in this category shall be played in a field of reduced length, width and depth (approximately 1.2 metres deep, but may vary). Goal structures shall also be of a reduced size. All games shall consist of quarters of 6 minutes of actual play, with 1 minute break period between periods and 2 minutes at half. Each team is allowed only one time out per game. In decisive games (semi-finals and finals), however, each team is allowed one time out in each half of the game. A competition delegate may call a technical time out at any time during any part of a game to deal with a contentious situation. Modified World Aquatics rules shall be in effect with the following adaptations:

- All players shall be allowed to stand in the pool to play the ball,
- A maximum of five (5) players (including a goalie) shall be allowed to play in the water at any time,

- Players shall be allowed to hold on to the sides of the pool and/or rails.
- Penalties shall be taken as follows. The player shooting the penalty shall, on referee's whistle, put the ball into play at the half distance line and have a 10 second time period to play the ball and shoot to score. The player is allowed to move towards the goal, with or without swimming with the ball, before shooting. The defending goalkeeper shall start on his/her goal line. All other players shall move into the half of the attacking team and is allowed to move into the half of the defending team, only after the player taking the penalty has made a shot.
- The rules governing the awarding of a penalty foul shall apply within the 4-metre line instead of the 5-metre line.

Teams

The League is open to all registered schools, with secondary level education, in Trinidad and Tobago.

For categories A, B, C, F, G and H, teams may consist of a maximum of thirteen (13) players. Players must maintain the same cap number (numbered 1 to 13) for the entire duration of the league. A substitute goalie must wear the number 13 cap and may play as a field player when not in the goal. This cap must be red when playing as a goalie. Teams may additionally comprise of a combination of schools, in order to allow greater participation of secondary school students, who would otherwise be unable to participate. A player may not play on a combined team if his/her school is participating under the school name and he/she is eligible to participate for his/her school in any of the categories the school has entered.

For categories D and E, teams may consist of a maximum of thirteen (13) players. A substitute goalie must wear the number 13 cap and may play as a field player when not in the goal. This cap must be red when playing as a goalie. Additionally, the goalie wearing the red number 1 cap may play as a field player, but must wear the number 14 cap when playing outside of the goal. A school may enter more than one team. Teams may additionally comprise of a combination of schools, in order to allow greater participation of secondary school students, who would otherwise be unable to participate. A player may not play on a combined team if his/her school is participating under the school name and he/she is eligible to participate for his/her school in any of the categories the school has entered.

Teams must consist of students enrolled in the school at the time of the competition. Students may participate in multiple categories for which they are eligible. However, the organizers take no responsibility, in the event of simultaneous games in different categories, where players must choose which game they play. Any player on suspension from school at the time of his/her game may not participate in that game.

Any player receiving a red card for violent actions shall face a minimum sanction of a one match suspension in the category and shall not be allowed to play in any game of the league until he or she serves the suspension in the category in which he or she received the red card. The same shall apply for a coach or assistant coach that receives a red card. If any player receives a second red card for violent actions during the league, or a coach receives a second red card, the player or coach shall be debarred from participating in the remainder of the league.

All coaches participating in this league must be 16 years or older at the time of the league.

Entries

Preliminary entries must be submitted by **January 3, 2024**.

Preliminary entries shall be in writing on the provided entry form.

Final entries shall be made on the provided entry form, **as well as a soft copy in the Excel format provided** (note each tab represents a different category) and shall be ready at technical meeting and shall include the following:

- The names of players in each category by cap number.
- The names of each school official and his/her role.

Each school shall be allowed a maximum of two team officials for each category entered.

Send entries to:

Ryan Smith
Manager, Secondary Schools Water Polo League
c/o Queen's Royal College, Port-of-Spain, and by email to royhil.seals@gmail.com.

Fees

There shall be entry fee of \$600 per team, which is to be paid at the time of the preliminary entry. Entry fees are to be paid via bank transfer or deposit to:

Royhil Seals Water Polo Club
RBC Royal Bank
Account #: 100093110187837

An image of the transfer/deposit slip is to be emailed royhil.seals@gmail.com and copied to royhil.seals@gmail.com. Any bank charges shall be paid by the sender.

Sanctions

There will be a \$200 fine for forfeit of any game, unless 24 hours' notice is given, in writing, to the league manager. However, no fine shall be imposed if a team shows up with less than two players short of the amount required to start the game.

There will be a \$500 fine for any team having a player who is not eligible to represent the school in a category. Additionally, such an illegal player shall be removed from the remainder of the league in any applicable category and the team disqualified from any game in which the player may have played.

[Note that it is the responsibility of team leaders to ensure that only eligible players are entered in each category. In the event a query on eligibility arises, the team leader shall provide proof of

eligibility prior to the next round of games. If the team leader fails to provide such proof, then the accused player is assumed to be ineligible. Any team that is found to have an ineligible player, shall be disqualified from all games in which the player may have possibly played.]

There shall be a sanction for any player who wears a cap number that is different from his/her registered number (in the relevant category) on the final entry form, except with the permission of the referee. The sanction shall be a fine of \$500 or disqualification of his/her team from the game in which the incorrect cap number is worn. It shall be the responsibility of team officials to ensure that the correct cap numbers are worn by all players.

There shall be a fine of \$100 for any team whose coach or other delegate participates in a league game, but is not in keeping with the dress code of the league. The shirts of all team officials on the team bench must be uniformed. Additionally, all team officials must wear shoes or sneakers on the team bench.

Teams shall be responsible for the control of its players while at the competition facilities. Any team that has one or more players found to be in violation of the rules of the competition facilities may be sanctioned by the league. The sanction may be one or more of the following:

- A written warning
- A fine
- A ban on the player or players from the remainder of the league, where applicable.
- A ban on the team and players from the remainder of the league, where applicable, (only in the event that more than three players of a team are found to be in violation of the rules).

Any team that is found to be guilty of playing with the aim of intentionally manipulating the outcome of a game (match fixing) and the resulting league standings shall be sanctioned by the league with a fine and disqualification from the remainder of the league.

Competition System

Depending on the number of entries per category, the league may be played in single or double round robin format or divided into groups or zones. If any category is divided by zone, a system of qualification for a national championship will be decided at the technical meeting based on the number of participating zones. Each game shall have a winner.

For round robin games, teams will score:

- **4 points** for an outright win at regular time or win by forfeit,
- **3 points** for a win in sudden victory (golden goal),
- **2 points** for a loss in sudden victory,
- **1 point** for an outright loss at regular time, and
- **0 points** for a forfeit.

The goal difference for a forfeited game shall be 5 – 0.

In semi-finals and finals, if a game is tied after regular time, the winner will be decided by penalty shootout in accordance with the rules.

Awards

Should the league be divided into zones, then the top three teams in each category in each zone shall be awarded with trophies, and the top three teams in the national championships shall be awarded with trophies and medals. Should the league not be divided into zones, overall trophies and medals will be awarded to the top three (3) teams in the league in each category.

Technical Meeting

The technical meeting for the league shall be held on **Monday January 8, 2024** at 7:00 p.m. at Queen's Royal College.

The agenda for the technical meeting shall be as follows:

- Welcome
- Receiving of final entries
- Roll call – teams, referees
- Instructions regarding conduct of competition, including caps, swimwear,
- Presentation of teams and dress on team bench.
- Disciplinary rules, including protocol and control of team officials as well as use of red and yellow cards.
- Schedule of matches and team draw
- Official functions
- Other business

The meeting for referees and desk officials shall immediately follow the technical meeting.

Protests

Any protest against a decision of the referees must be submitted on an official protest form within 30 minutes after the game. Once submitted, full written details of the protest, along with a fee of TT\$250 (cash) and signed by the team leader, must be submitted within forty-eight(48) hours of the end of the game in question. If the Jury of Appeal upholds the protest, the fee shall be returned to the school/team. The decision of the Jury of Appeal shall be final.

Jury of Appeal

The Jury of Appeal shall be chaired by the league manager (without vote) and have one representative each from three disinterested schools in the league who shall vote on any appeals.

Due to the emotional aspect of the game, the committee may not deal with issues immediately, but teams are assured that they will be dealt with in a timely manner.

A list of referees for each weekend will be circulated to participants at least 3 days prior to games. When circulated, coaches have 24 hours to raise concerns about the carded referees. In such instance, the referees shall be relooked to achieve the best resolution.

Ryan Smith

Manager

Republic Bank Secondary Schools Water Polo League 2024